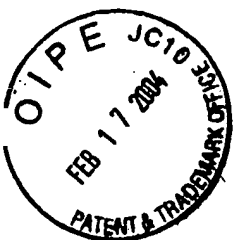


02-19-04



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 10/674,325
Applicant: Andrew R. Ferlitsch *et al.*
Filed: September 29, 2003
Group #: 2186

Confirmation Number: 4659

Docket No: J-SLA.1264
Customer No: 23855
For: Random Bit Mask By-Product File Disk Obscuring

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT 37 C.F.R. § 1.115
Introductory Comments

This Preliminary Amendment is filed in response to the Notice of Omitted Item(s) in a Nonprovisional Application which was received along with the official Filing Receipt, dated December 19, 2003. Accordingly, please enter the following:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims - None.

Amendments to the Drawings - None

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 3 of this paper.

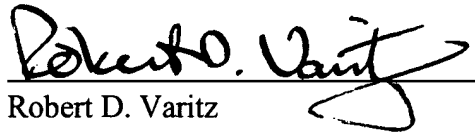
CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

"Express Mail" Mailing Label No.
Date of Deposit - February 17, 2004

EL977167735US

I hereby certify that the attached Preliminary Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.115 is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Washington, D.C. 22313-1450


Robert D. Varitz